

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-10, 12, 14-17, and 19-22 are pending in this application. Claim 2 is canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claims 19 and 21 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 8 and 20 of U.S. patent 6,891,320 in view of U.S. patent application publication 2002/0065516 to Kawate et al. (herein "Kawate"). Claims 14-17, 20, and 22 are allowed. Claims 2-10 and 12 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter in claims 2-10, 12, 14-17, 20, and 22.

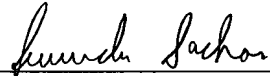
Addressing now the rejection of claims 19 and 21 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Independent claim 19 is amended by the present response to now incorporate limitations from previously pending dependent claim 2. Such subject matter was not rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Thereby, the presently submitted amendment to claim 19 is believed to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

I:\ATTY\SNS\25s\250291\250291US-AM.DOC